United Nations A/AC.105/C.2/L.218

General Assembly

Distr.: Limited
9 December 1999

Original: English

Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Legal Subcommittee
Thirty-ninth session
Vienna, 27 March-7 April 2000

Provisional agenda[1]

1. Opening of the session.
2. Statement by the Chairman.
3. General exchange of views.
4. Status of the international treaties governing the uses of outer space.
5. Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law.
6. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union.
7. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space.
8. Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space.
9. Review of the concept of the "launching State".
10. Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fortieth session.

[1] The General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, welcomed the new approach taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in composing the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20), annex I, sect. B) and endorsed the recommendation of the Committee that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, taking into account the concerns of all countries, in particular those of the developing countries, should consider items 3, 4, 5 and 6 as regular items of the agenda, should continue its consideration of item 7 as a single issue and item for discussion and should consider items 8 and 9 in accordance with the work plans adopted by the Committee. The Assembly, in paragraph 5 of the same resolution, noted that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, would submit proposals to the Committee for new items to be considered by the Subcommittee at its fortieth session, in 2001.

Annotations

5. Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

In the discussion of this item, member States may bring to the attention of the Legal Subcommittee any information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law.

6. Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

The General Assembly, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, noted that the Legal Subcommittee would reconvene the working group to consider this item.

7. Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

The General Assembly, in paragraph 7 of its resolution 54/67, endorsed the recommendation of the Committee[2] that the Legal Subcommittee, at its thirty-ninth session, suspend consideration in its working group of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space[3] pending the results of the work in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, without prejudice to the possibility of reconvening the working group on that item if, in the opinion of the Legal Subcommittee, sufficient progress had been made in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-seventh session, in 2000, to warrant the reconvening of the working group.

8. Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space

In accordance with the work plan and the projected activities of the Legal Subcommittee in the third year of the discussion of this item (A/AC.105/674, annex II, sect. B), the Subcommittee will, on the basis of the recommendations of the working group, consider and implement, as appropriate, the measures considered adequate to achieve the established objectives.

9. Review of the concept of the "launching State"

In accordance with the work plan, this item will be considered by a working group during a three-year period beginning in 2000 with special presentations on new launch systems and ventures.[4]

---

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20), para. 90.

[3] General Assembly resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20), para. 114.

Annex

Organization of work

1. At its thirty-eighth session, the Legal Subcommittee agreed that a flexible organization of work similar to that agreed upon for that session, would serve as the basis for organizing the work of its thirty-ninth session (A/AC.105/721, para. 13).

2. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its thirty-eighth session, agreed that the practice of allocating specific agenda items to particular meetings at a session should be ended and that, to assist in their planning, Member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items.[a] The Committee also agreed that agenda items should be considered consecutively and be considered closed after the list of speakers on any particular item had been exhausted, and that the Chairman might propose that items could be suspended to allow additional discussion at future meetings.[b]

3. The General Assembly, in paragraph 4 of its resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, welcomed the new approach taken by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in composing the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee.[c] In paragraph 8 of the same resolution, the Assembly endorsed the recommendations and agreements of the Committee concerning the organization of work in the Subcommittee.[d]

4. At the close of the afternoon meeting on 27 March 2000, a seminar entitled "Legal Aspects of the Commercialization of Space Activities", sponsored by the International Institute of Space Law and the European Centre for Space Law, will be held.

5. An indicative schedule of work is given below.

Indicative schedule of work

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Week of 27-31 March 2000		
Monday, 27 March	Item 1: Opening of the session	Item 3: General exchange of views
	Item 2: Statement by the Chairman	
	Item 3: General exchange of views	Symposium entitled "Legal Aspects of the Commercialization of Space Activities"

[a] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 169 (b).

[b] Ibid., para. 169 (c).

[c] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/54/20), annex I, sect. B.

[d] Ibid., paras. 109-117.

Date	*Morning*	*Afternoon*
Tuesday, 28 March	Item 3: General exchange of views	Item 4: Status of the treaties on outer space
Wednesday, 29 March	Item 4: Status of the treaties on outer space	Item 5: Information on activities of international organizations relating to space law
Thursday, 30 March	Item 6: Definition of outer space and utilization of the geostationary orbit	Item 6: Definition of outer space and utilization of the geostationary orbit
Friday, 31 March	Item 5: Information on activities of international organizations relating to space law	Item 7: Nuclear power sources
Week of 3-7 April 2000		
Monday, 3 April	Item 7: Nuclear power sources	Item 8: Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space
Tuesday, 4 April	Item 8: Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space	Item 9: Review of the concept of the "launching State"
Wednesday, 5 April	Item 9: Review of the concept of the "launching State"	Item 10: New items
Thursday, 6 April	Item 10: New items	Adoption of the reports of the working groups on the definition of outer space and utilization of the geostationary orbit and on the review of the concept of the "launching State"
Friday, 7 April	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee	Adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee